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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/604,784 | REITANO, CARMEN T. | |
| | Examiner Isaac N Hamilton | Art Unit 3724 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 03/01/05.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 7 and 15-19.
3. The drawings filed on 15 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicant's representative, Mr. Mark P. White, on May 27, 2005. The change to the title was not authorized, however, it is necessary for clarification.

The application has been amended as follows:

The title “[Quartering Pill Splitter]” has been changed to --Quartering Pill Splitter--;

Claims 8-14 have been canceled.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claims define an apparatus with an upper body provided with linear guides slots wherein a plunger with a linear, pointed edge slides and forces a pill, which is in the recess of a pill bed having guide tabs, against a cruciate blade that has a second cutting edge that is offset from the first cutting edge. Maoz (6,041,697) teaches a plunger a plunger with guides slots being sliding towards a bed in order to crush a nut's shell, but does not teach a cruciate blade, guide tabs and does not teach a plunger with a linear pointed edge. Samuelson (5,634,272) teaches an apparatus with a plunger, a pill bed and a cruciate blade, but does not teach a second cutting edge that is offset from the

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first cutting edge, guide tabs and does not teach an upper body with linear guide slots with a sliding plunger therein. Berry et al (2,852,053) teach an upper body with a guides slot, a plunger with a linear, pointed edge, but does not teach a cruciate blade and does not teach a pill bed. Umanoff (3,048,208) teaches a plunger and a cruciate blade that has a second cutting edge that is offset from the first cutting edge, but does not teach a pill bed, and does not teach an upper body with guides slots wherein a plunger with a linear, pointed edge slides. It would not have been obvious to combine the references with other prior art teachings in order to meet the claim limitations. US Patent Nos. 6,644,528 and 6,474,525 to Reitano were checked for double patenting due to similar subject matter.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isaac Hamilton whose telephone number is 571-272-4509. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday between 8am and 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan N. Shoap can be reached on 571-272-4514. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

IH
May 27, 2005


Allan N. Shoap
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700